

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new subtitle and paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 11 of page 4.

[Explanation of Symbols]

1...die for forming a honeycomb body, 2...slit, 3...cell block, 4...back hole, 6...diaphragm portion, 7...corner portion, 8...curved portion, 10...die for extruding a honeycomb body, 12...holding plate, 14...back holding plate, 15...holding jig, 16...forming ring holder, 18...forming ring, 20...die holder, 22...noodle die, 24...screen, 30...outer wall of honeycomb structure, 40...fine

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the above arrangement, when a honeycomb ~~segment~~^{segment} is executed using the die having a square honeycomb structure (in particular, when a honeycomb segment whose outer wall thickness is not large is extruded), the cell blocks 3 and the back holes 4 at the corner portions 7 can be uniformly designed at four upper, lower, right, and left corners as shown in Fig. 1. Accordingly, an extruding speed of kneaded clay in ~~slits 9~~^{slits 2} formed by a holding plate 12 and the corner portions 7 and an extruding speed thereof in slits 2 formed in the die can be made uniform, which can prevent distortion generated on an extruded face (pattern) of an extruded body and bending of the formed body.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page ⁵~~4~~, line ¹⁶~~26~~ with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the above arrangement, when the honeycomb segment is executed using the die having the square honeycomb structure (in particular, when the honeycomb segment whose